

5 October 2007

Developing Home Grown Solutions to Himalayan Poverty



The AVRDC team meeting with local cabbage producers

Organic vegetables may become a more significant export from the foothills of the Himalayas than people. A recent visit to the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand by a team from AVRDC scoped opportunities for expanding local vegetable production to address the region's severe poverty.

The new state of Uttarakhand is bounded by Nepal to the east and Tibet in the north and is almost entirely mountainous. Three quarters of its population of 9 million depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, but many rural people unable to find work have left the state.

A team consisting of Dr Thomas Lumpkin, Dr M.L. Chadha, Dr Jaw-Fen Wang and Dr Srinivasan Ramasamy was invited by officials of the Tata Trust, an Indian philanthropic foundation keen to encourage our work in India. Negotiating unseasonal downpours and landslides the team visited local farmers while planning projects.

Dr Lumpkin said that local farmers faced many problems, "There is a lack of quality seeds and there are huge problems with soil fertility, appropriate rotations and farmers' knowledge of production practices, especially those associated with organic production."

Uttarakhand has declared itself an organic crop producing state, but still has a long way to go to make

this a reality. Its mountainous environment and cool temperatures give it some natural production advantages for vegetables compared to the rest of India.

"We were very impressed by the skills and global perspective of Chirog, the local NGO who hosted our visit," Dr Lumpkin stated. "We need to recognize the shifting environment in India where NGOs are increasingly doing a lot of the development activities. By working with them it provides real opportunities for pro-poor impacts," he said.

Such NGOs are seeking technical input from AVRDC supported by funding from the Sir Ratan Tata Trust. Founded in India in 1919 the Trust has a long history of local philanthropy, having distributed almost USD80 million in funding over its history. Keen to build a strong partnership with AVRDC the Trust has invited not only our project proposals but has also asked Dr Lumpkin to attend its next Board meeting.

Such projects represent a new model for collaborative work with countries like India with major problems of poverty and its own private development funding sources.

- Source: Communications

Latest Publications from the Center's Staff

Congratulations to Dr. Shilpi Saxena, Ms. Su-ling Su, Dr. Sylvia Green, Mr. Wen-shi Tsai, Ms. Li-mei Lee and Mr. Stefan Pletziger for their latest publications, recently received by the library.

Saxena, S. (2007). Organic vegetables: domestic and regional marketing constraints and opportunities for small-scale farmers in East Africa. In: Conference on International Agricultural Research for Development; University of Kassel-Witzenhausen, October 9-11, 2007. Arusha: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, Regional Center for Africa. 7 pp.

Shih, S.L., Green, S.K., Tsai, W.S., Lee, L.M., Levasseur, V. (2007). First report of a distinct begomovirus associated with okra yellow crinkle disease in Mali. *PLANT PATHOLOGY*. v.56:718.

Zoss, M., Pletziger, S. (2007). Linking African vegetable smallholders to high value markets: potentials and constraints in smallholders' integration into GLOBALGAP-certified and/or domestic African high-value supply-chains. In: Conference on International Agricultural Research for Development; University of Kassel-Witzenhausen, October 9-11, 2007. Arusha: AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, Regional Center for Africa. 4 pp.

New Publications (Articles & Books) Received by the Library

Pavlovic, N., Zecevic, B., Zdravkovic, J., Mijatovic, M. (2007). Genetic and phenotypic correlation of some onion (*Allium cepa* L.) bulb traits. *ACTA HORTICULTURAE*. no.729:57-60.

Ruiz-Medrano, R., Hinojosa-Moya, J., Xoconostle-Cazares, B., Lucas, W.J. (2007). Influence of cucumber mosaic virus infection on the mRNA population present in the phloem translocation stream of pumpkin plants. *FUNCTIONAL PLANT BIOLOGY*. v.34(4):292-301.

Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. (2005). Dietary reference intakes for energy, carbohydrate, fiber, fat, fatty acids, cholesterol, protein, and amino acids. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press. xxv, 1331 pp.

Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. (2005). Dietary reference intakes for water, potassium, sodium, chloride, and sulfate. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press. xviii, 617 pp.

Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. (2003). Dietary reference intakes: guiding principles for nutrition labeling and fortification. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press. xvi, 205 pp.

Lebeda, A., Wirdlechner, M.P. (2003). A set of Cucurbitaceae taxa for differentiation of *Pseudoperonospora cubensis* pathotypes. *ZEITSCHRIFT FUER PFLANZENKRAKHEITEN UND PFLANZENSCHUTZ*. v.110(4):337-349.

New Popular Magazines Now Available in the Library

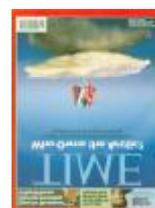
The Economist: Burma's saffron revolution - 29th September – October 5th 2007

Scientific American (Chinese) – October 10

Time: Who owns the Arctic? – 1 October 2007

Time: Praying for Burma – 8 October 2007

- Source: Fang-chin Chen/Communications



New Staff – Ms. Connie L. Siliota, Research Assistant Socioeconomics (Solomon Islands) for the ACIAR-funded Project

Ms. Connie L. Siliota has been appointed as Research Assistant – Socioeconomics (Solomon Islands) for the ACIAR-funded project No. HORT/2005/077 entitled “Integrated Crop Management Package for Sustainable Smallholder Gardens in Solomon Islands”, for an initial period of one year, effective 8 October 2007.

Connie received her Bachelor of Social Sciences from James Cook University in North Queensland, Australia in 2004. She has two years working experience from different organizations such as AusAid, Pacific Porphyry, Department of National Planning and Aid Coordination of Solomon Islands. She will report directly to Katinka Weinberger, Socio-economist.

Connie will work closely with the national site coordinator, researchers and development specialists in the disciplines of crop and soil management, socio-economics, extension, plant protection and plant breeding from AVRDC, ACIAR, NSW-DPI, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL), and local NGOs. She

will support the researchers’ needs in the production and marketing aspects of vegetable research in Solomon Islands. In particular, Connie will (1) assist in the development of baseline surveys at the farm level, consumer organoleptic trials, farm production and market level work; (2) perform data collection activities in target sites, and data processing such as encoding, editing and cleaning; (3) assist in liaising with country collaborators, and providing technical assistance in the processing and completion of survey databases and other project-related matters; (4) maintain databases, documentation and reference files; (5) assist in analysis of primary and secondary data using spreadsheets and econometric programs; (6) assist in research activities such as writing, editing and literature research; and (7) perform any other duties required.

Welcome aboard, Connie!

- Source: Lilia Tan Habacon/Human Resources Manager

Abstracts Sought for the 2nd International Conference on Vegetables

This conference provide an excellent opportunity to highlight some of our leading research work. Originally scheduled to be held this September in Fortaleza, Brazil the conference will now be held from April 14-18 in 2008. Conference details can be found at <http://www.pnasf.org/ICV2007.htm>

A 200-300 word abstract needs to be submitted by 15th November within one of the following themes:

1. Biodiversities
2. Country Development Policies and Programmes
3. Genetics, Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
4. Hybrid Seed Production
5. Nutrition and Health (Nutraceutics)
6. Post-harvest Physiology and Technology
7. Production Technology and Organic Production
8. Supply chain, Marketing and Technology Transfer
9. Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries
10. Under-utilized Vegetables
11. Urban and Peri-urban Horticulture

Abstracts of papers will be reviewed for inclusion as an oral or poster presentation and will be published in the

“Program and Abstracts Book”. To be accepted, at least one of the authors needs to attend the conference.

Abstracts should include the following:

- ✓ Length from 200 to 300 words (title, authors and addresses not included) and written in English;
- ✓ Include title, list of authors and their affiliation, contact address including e-mail address and one paragraph only of script;
- ✓ The title should be in capital letters with the name of the presenting author underlined. Use numbers in the title for stating financial support and authors’ affiliation;
- ✓ The abstract should be typed, single spaced, using Arial letter, size 12 pitch. Standard abbreviations may be used;
- ✓ Abstracts should be sent as a *.doc file to Dr. Fernando A. S. Aragão: aragao@cnpat.embrapa.br.

At the conference, each participant can also submit one 6-8 page paper based on their abstract to be published in a special issue of Acta Horticulturae.

<http://www.ishs.org/acta/index.htm>

- Source: Communications

Position Announcements

Field Laborer, Bacteriology Unit

植物細菌組徵「田間作業員」乙名

Key Responsibilities: (1) conduct routine activities such as sowing, land preparation, mulching, thinning, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, staking, fertilizer and pesticide application, harvesting, installing net cages and disease sample collection for field experiments; (2) conduct routine activities such as preparing potting mixture, sterilizing trays/pots/benches, raising seedlings, fertilizer and pesticide application, inoculation of plant pathogens, post-experimented cleanup for greenhouse and screenhouse experiments. **Qualifications:** Junior high school education or equivalent; Physically capable of significant heavy labor; Experience in field tasks and activities.

主要負責：田間試驗工作：播種、整地、覆蓋、疏苗、移植、除草、灌溉、立支架、施肥、噴藥、收穫、架設尼龍網室及病害樣本之採集等。溫室及網室之試驗工作：準備培養土、消毒育苗箱、鉢及台面、育苗、施肥、噴藥、接種植物病原菌、試驗結束之清理等。應徵資格：國中畢業或相當學歷，耐粗重工作，具田間工作經驗者。

Machinery Operator, Technical Services Office

技術服務室徵「農機操作員」乙名

Job Objectives: operate, manage and coordinate the use of the Center's agricultural machinery to meet its research requirements; maintain and keep machinery in good working condition. **Specific Responsibilities:** (1) operate agricultural machinery including rotavator for land preparation, bedding, weeding, and backhoe/loader operation; (2) check engine oil, fuel, coolant, brake functions and tire pressure daily before operating machinery; (3) check loose nuts and bolts for the entire machinery before use; (4) lubricate and clean machinery weekly; and (5) perform other duties as may be assigned. **Qualifications:** Senior vocational high school graduate; driver's license for at least 3 years.

工作目標：負責操作農業機具以配合研究單位需求，保持農業機具在良好狀態。主要負責：農機具操作包括迴轉犁整地、做畦、中耕機除草以及鏟挖兩用機操作。每日作業前檢查機油、燃油、冷卻液面、煞車功能及胎壓。機器使用前檢查是否有鬆動螺絲。機器每星期打黃油一次。負責其他委派工作。應徵資格：高職畢業、三年以上駕駛經驗。

Application: Submit a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, with names, and contact addresses (phone number and e-mail) of three referees. **Send to:** Ms. Felisa Wang, Human Resources, AVRDC—The World Vegetable Center, P.O. Box 42, Shanhua, Tainan 74199, Taiwan. (jobapply@netra.avrdc.org.tw)

Review of Applications: the review of application will begin 31 October 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

應徵方式：請將履歷表以及三位介紹人姓名、聯絡地址（包括電話、電子郵件信箱）寄到：亞蔬—世界蔬菜中心，台南縣善化鎮郵政信箱42號人事室。或電子郵件信箱：jobapply@netra.avrdc.org.tw。

截止收件日期：2007年10月31日。

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR

Travel

Drs. Paul Gniffke, Manuel C. Palada, Gregory C. Luther and Katinka Weinberger, 8-19 October, to Solomon Islands, to help run the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA survey) for the ACIAR funded Solomon Island project.

Drs. Madhusundan Bhattarai, Markus Kaiser, and Zhanyong Sun, 12-20 October, to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to participate in the Review and Planning Meeting on "Vegetable Variety Selection in Central Asia and the Caucasus" to be held 16-18 Oct 2007 in

Tashkent, Uzbekistan. During this period, Dr. Kaiser will meet the representative of the Asian Development Bank in Tashkent and other potential donors. Dr. Sun will check autumn season cucumber trials in plastic houses, visit scientists and learn about the cucurbit breeding history in CAC, learn about the local market needs and refine the Center's cucurbit breeding program, and seek opportunities for shuttle breeding in CAC during the summer season.

- Source: Yvonne Ting/ASU

New Coffee Break Schedule

Starting on Monday, 8 October 2007, coffee break in our Center will be on Monday through Friday in the Coffee Lounge, 3rd floor of the Administration building. It will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1000 to 1030 hours and on Tuesday, Thursday from 1500 to 1530 hours. Coffee and snacks are provided for free. Whether it's for a break from your hard work, a need for some perking-up, or a chance to connect with each other, please come to have a coffee break and enjoy!

自下週一（10月8日）起，行政大樓3樓茶水間，在特定的時間提供免費的咖啡及點心，星期一、三、五早上10點至10點30分，星期二、四則是下午3點至3點30分，希望所有同仁在辛苦工作之餘，能放鬆一下，藉機可以和同事們互動，歡迎大家踴躍參與！

- Source: Ms. Kartini (Iin) Luther/Assistant to the DDG-R

New Staff

The Center expresses warmly welcome to the following staff who reported for duty on 1 October 2007.



Mr. Tan Chee-Wee 陳志威, Principal Research Assistant, Tomato Unit, obtained his M.S. degree from the Department of Agronomy, National Chung Hsing University in 2003. Mr. Tan can be contacted at ext. 374, <cheewee.tan@netra.avrdc.org.tw>.



Ms. Su C. Hsiu-chin 蘇江秀琴, Field Laborer, Mycology Unit, ext. 344.



Mr. Chang An-chou 張安州, Field Helper (vBSS project), Bulb Allium Unit, ext. 313.

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR

Farewell

There are two workers in the Technical Services Office who will retire this month. **Mr. Lin Yi-wang**, Machinery Operator will retire on 10 October. **Mr. Huang Shih-chuan**, Sr. Technician, is retiring on 15 October. Both of them have served the Center for more than 32 years. We express our deep appreciation for their hard work during their past years with the Center. We wish them good health and much happiness!

任職技術服務室的**林益旺先生**及**黃石川先生**將於本月份退休，感謝林先生及黃先生 32 年來對亞蔬的辛勤付出，在此特別祝福退休後的他們身體健康精神愉快！

- Source: Felisa Wang/HR